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12 August 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED] Special Assistant to the Director  
of Personnel

FROM : [REDACTED] Summer Intern  
DD/I Special Research Staff

SUBJECT : Comments on Summer Intern Program

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1. I must admit that upon entering the Central Intelligence Agency this summer, I had many misgivings, e.g., how friends would view my employment with the Agency, how this association might diminish prospects for future employment with other government agencies and international organizations. At this point I can say that these factors no longer seem important. The Summer Intern Program has successfully dispelled many of my misconceptions and uncertainties about the Agency's goals, functions, and organization. What single factor has impressed me most about this experience is the realization that the Agency has no ulterior purpose than the collection, evaluation, and correct analysis of data and that it is on these criteria alone that the Agency's performance is evaluated. Needless to say I have been impressed by the rigorous standards of objective analysis pursued and the willingness of other offices and divisions to assist each other in what approaches a collegial atmosphere. Unfortunately, the Agency has hitherto been unable or unwilling to educate a wider segment of the public as to the necessity of intelligence gathering, the raison-d'être for Agency reluctance to suggest policy or to defend itself against accusations by its critics, etc.. More precisely, my assignment in the DDI/SRS (China), has enabled me to secure a general understanding of the CIA from an operative aspect, combined with the meaningful investigation of a substantive research problem. The following items are some specific observations related to both this specific assignment and the Intern Program as well:

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a. Application Procedure. I would like to see an earlier application deadline so that clearance can be completed by May 1. My final notification in June, several days before my departure from school, made planning accommodations and alternative summer employment extremely difficult.

b. Briefings. I felt that the full day of general briefings for all summer employees was excessive both in terms of length and material covered. A single organizational chart of the Agency would have sufficed for the multitude of flow charts, graphs and other illustrative material used. The movies shown and case studies discussed concerning espionage activities were at most entertaining, but otherwise useless. The Summer Intern briefings all suffered from a basic misconception -- they should be designed to describe the functional and procedural aspects of a given office (e.g., its role, how this role fits into needs and capabilities of other offices within the CIA, the nature of the finished product) rather than detailed substantive data, couched in highly technical language (e.g., NPIC briefings about satellite photographs of missile sites in China, USSR and Egypt) and of particular interest only to a specialist in that subject area. A discussion of the procedural and functional aspects of a given office (using substantive data only by way of illustration) would immensely assist personnel of other offices in knowing where collateral resources may be found for a specific problem. In addition, the excessive length of the briefing sessions (e.g., three hours at NPIC) tends to hamper any meaningful assimilation of the material presented.

The exclusion of the DD/P and DDS&T divisions from the briefings was a major error, suggesting that their work had little on-going relevance to the research and analysis of DD/I personnel.

c. Research with SRS. I appreciated the adult-like, professional manner in which I have been allowed to pursue my research, with a mini-

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mum of supervision, the willingness of senior analysts to listen to my queries and to discuss research problems with me, and the research problem given me, tailored to my interests and training, and challenging as a meaningful topic for investigation. Perhaps one of the weaknesses was that I had too much freedom, for much time was needlessly wasted in discovering for myself bibliographic sources, both within the same office (e.g., other analysts working on related topics) and outside of the office. Within the last month of my summer internship, I quite by accident discovered the research services of CRS and a week later was introduced by SRS to analysts in the DD/P division of China operations; little did I previously suspect that DD/P had its own research staff -- a fact which could have been made known to me much earlier either by my own office or through a summer intern briefing session.

2. Once again, I wish to stress that my overall impression of the Summer Intern Program is extremely favorable and due to this experience I can now say with greater certainty that my conception of the Agency and its role is a much more balanced, objective one.

Respectfully submitted,



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